

PREMIUM PREVAILERS.

The manner in which the ignorant masses in Spain are cajoled and deceived by their government is shameful says the *Pittsburg Dispatch*. The news that the Spanish fleet was yet at Cape Verde Islands was a complete surprise to the Spanish people, who had been led to believe the Vizcaya and Oquendo were in American waters, and that the Colon and Maria Theresa, with the torpedo boats, were threatening our Atlantic coast. Similarly the Pelayo and its convoys were supposed to be in the vicinity of Boston or New York, when they were actually at Gibraltar.

It might be difficult to believe that such deception could be deliberately practiced by a government upon its people were it not for other circumstances. The American people have long been familiar with the typewritten victories of the Captains General in Cuba, which were always contradicted when the American correspondents could obtain the facts. But it is not necessary to go back to those false reports for evidence of the most abominable misleading of the Spanish public.

The official report of the bombardment of Matanzas is a graphic enough illustration. After a few shots were fired, these reports say, "the American fleet was obliged to retreat." The Spanish loss is given at seven men and "the American loss is unknown."

The *Liberal* newspaper on the same day tells its readers that the American ships are rotten and inefficient; that their crews are ignorant and undisciplined, and that the American troops are worse. It contrasts American excitability with Spanish calm and coolness.

A day or two earlier the Spanish Governor of the Philippine Islands issued a manifesto declaring the Americans to be cowards and many other things which they are not, representing that their expedition against Manila was wholly for the purpose of plunder, and that if they should be victorious they would massacre and enslave the inhabitants of the archipelago. All this for the purpose of frightening an ignorant people into enlisting for the Spanish defense.

The governing class of a nation which is capable of such deception and fraud is naturally capable of the cowardice and cruelty charged against their enemies. The history of Cuba and the Philippines, of Mexico and South America, proves that this is so, and that every crime charged against the Americans has been committed by Spain in its colonies until its cowardly hand has been thrown off by a people who could endure no more.

The militia officers have endeavored to impress upon the members of the service that it was in no way to be looked upon as dishonorable or unworthy for any individual not to enlist for service in this war. This is fully true, and it ought to be strongly emphasized. No man should enlist unless he really wishes to do so. His membership in the militia was not designed to cover the case of a foreign war, and he is under no obligation to serve.

A good safe for sale, at a bargain; inquire at this office.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The vineyards of Italy cover nearly 8,000,000 acres.

No less than five systems of law are in use in Germany.

Alexandria possesses the largest artificial harbor in the world.

There are 230 glaciers in the Alps said to be over five miles in length.

Almost all the camphor used by the world comes from Japan and Formosa.

Web to the length of 3 1/4 miles has been drawn from the body of a single spider.

The Mormon colonies in northern Mexico are to be connected by telephone lines.

A patent authority says that not more than one invention in 110 is of any practical use.

In a cubic foot of phosphorescent sea water there have been found 25,000 living creatures.

In proportion to population, exactly three times as much spirits is drunk in Scotland as in England.

It is a curious fact that red-haired people are less apt to go bald than those with other colored hair.

The "life tree" of Jamaica grows and thrives for months after being uprooted and exposed to the sun.

Among women in Germany, the American boot is so popular that many foreign makes are sold as such.

Today Finland has about 1,200 miles of railroads in operation and quite a number of lines under construction.

Japan ranks sixth in population, being surpassed only by China, India, Russia, the United States and Germany.

A law recently enacted in Norway makes girls ineligible for matrimony until they are skilled in sewing, knitting and cooking.

It is declared, on the authority of a Swiss scientist, that microbes do not exist in mountain air at an altitude of over 2,000 feet.

It is said that in many Welsh villages the yew tree and the churchyard of the same age, the one being planted when the other is built.

Our pineapple supply comes chiefly in trading boats which pass near Cuba and the Cuban crop is usually shipped by way of Havana.

It is computed that when marching soldiers take seventy-five steps per minute, in quick marching 108, and in charging 160 steps.

Pope Leo XIII. uses snuff, and it is made expressly for him by a firm in Baltimore. It is sent to Rome in one-pound and five-pound jars.

The English and Chinese languages are said to be the only two among all those known that class inanimate objects as of the neuter gender.

In Sweden the railway stations where meals are served are known by the picture of a crossed knife and fork opposite the name of the station.

Since 1857, fourteen United States Senators have died in office and twelve after leaving it. It is the heaviest mortality in the history of the Senate.

Cyclometers are in use on public carriages in Berlin, Leipzig and Dresden. They record the exact amount of miles traveled and the legal fare of the occupants.

The flying frog of Borneo has long toes, which are webbed to the tips. Its feet thus act as little parachutes and enables the frog to leap from lofty trees and descend gradually.

Sidney Huger, late of Cerrillos, was on the Concord, one of the victor vessels in the Manila fight.

COMMANDER DEWEY.

The victor of Manila is the hero of the hour. Such a triumph as he secured in the Philippine Islands, takes one back to the days of Decatur, Perry and Paul Jones. Only fine seamanship, combined with military ability of the highest character, could have done what he did at Manila, on Sunday.

George Dewey was born in Vermont, and was appointed to the Naval academy in 1854, from which he graduated in 1858. At once he entered into active service taking a prominent part in the civil war which began soon after.

He participated in the capture of New Orleans, Port Hudson, Donaldsonville and Fort Fisher, during that war.

He was commissioned as Lieutenant in 1861, Lieutenant Commander in 1865, Commander in 1872, Captain in 1884. He now bears the rank of Commodore, given him in 1889.

If he keeps up the pace set at Manila, he will soon wear the highest honors in the power of the American people to convey.

In Loving Tribute.

Like a terrible chilling wind, over the summer flowers, was the announcement in last evening's *Optic*, of the death of lovable Mayme Dyer Sportleder. Perhaps no girl had more true, loving friends in this community than the dear dead, and long after the fragile form has been reduced to earth, the memory of her bright smiling face, and lovable manners will live in the memory of those who know and loved her.

So young, so charming, it is difficult to realize that her bright, happy spirit has gone to the quiet land where nothing disturbs or awakens, and in the circle of which she was always the life and spirit, there has been made a vacancy which will be hard to fill.

Mayme Dyer Sportleder was one for whom all will mourn, she was one of those who unconsciously possessed the indescribable attraction known as "charm," and one always felt the better for having come in contact with her.

She is dead. Gone from all those who loved her so, and in the hearts of all who were her friends and associates in the springtime of her youth, there is a wound which will not soon heal.

While all hearts beat in sympathy with the bereaved ones, yet not one of us who have never been called upon to pass through the "fery flood" dare breathe one word of consolation. Indeed, their sorrow is far too deep to be understood by us, yet, with one accord, we bow our heads in respect for their great affliction, and each one in our hearts feels that we, too, are saddened by the extinguishing so suddenly of the bright light.

Good bye, dear. May the long sleep you are now sleeping be one dreamless quiet; your memory will live with us who knew and loved you. And may the hearts of those who are left be comforted by the aroma of love which springs from the censor of our sorrowful hearts.

W. B. M.

Captain S. Y. Seyborn, of the Tenth Infantry, who was regimental adjutant of the Tenth Infantry while stationed in Santa Fe in 1890, '91 and '92, has been assigned to duty on the staff of the general of the army.

The tax suits against the Santa Fe company were again postponed this morning, in order to give the defendants time to procure additional testimony.

The warmer weather which will come with the approaching spring months should find you strong and in robust health, your blood pure and your appetite good. Otherwise you will be in danger of serious illness. Purify and enrich your blood with Hood's Sarsaparilla and thus "prepare for spring." This medicine makes rich, red blood and gives vigor and vitality. It will guard you against danger from the change which will soon take place.

Does anyone suppose that there is another nation on the face of the earth, where the commander of a great fleet, which had been annihilated, would telegraph home that he had won a victory? Spain's commander in the Philippines did this. And then, too, he is known as their "fighting admiral." This can but show the ignorance of the people, the corruption of the government, and the rottenness of a nationality which should at once cease to exist.

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